

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, June 20, 2005 at 4:30pm in the Board of Works Room at City Hall.

Present at said meeting were Paula Woods, Mike Dana, Nancy Offutt, and Attorney John Sorensen. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Brian Tunis, Brenda Lorenz, and Cheryl Kolb represented the Department. Council members Gil Satterly and Ann Hunt were present. Absent were Park Board members Leon Trachtman, Garnet Peck, Council member Gerry Keen, and staff members Chris Foley and Lee Booth.

Paula convened the Board at 4:38 pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the May 16 meeting. Mike motioned the minutes be approved as presented. Nancy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.
- Joe reminded everyone that the Taste of Tippecanoe was held this past Saturday at Tapawingo Park, noting that several people indicated the fireworks were the most spectacular yet. Overall, Tapawingo Park sustained very little damage.
- We are currently preparing for Riverfest.

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- Distributed copies of the pool report, representing attendance through Thursday, June 16, the first 21 days of the season.
- Global Fest has been scheduled for Saturday, September 3 this year. To date, the Mayor has raised \$7,500.00 with another \$5,000.00 promised.
- Dubois Park: Contract for Phase III – the pouring of the shelter pad and erection of the shelter was awarded to Fairfield Contractors for \$14,989.00. The shelter, picnic tables, and grill were ordered from Reese Recreation, with a cost of \$14,207.00. An estimated 6-8 week delivery is expected for the shelter.
- Two climbing boulders have been ordered for Tapawingo Park.

Parks – Brian reported on the following in Lee's absence:

- The pool is up and running for the summer.
- A new walk was installed around the Tapawingo Park playground, along with benches and landscaping.
- Prepared Tapawingo Park for the Taste of Tippecanoe and the Overlook dedication.
- General maintenance performed in all parks.

Recreation – Pennie reported on the following in Chris' absence:

- Summer programs are underway.
- Pool: The Splash Bash party at the Municipal Pool was held Friday, May 27. The party signifies the official opening of the summer swim season. The wind was cool for the Splash Bash, but the following hot days have kept the pool busy.
- Red Cross Swim Lessons began June 13 and will continue through August 5.
- Diving lessons are being held at the pool from 5-6pm. Deana Sotelo is coaching novice and intermediate divers. Currently, for Session 1 there are thirteen children participating in the diving program.
- Synchronized Swimming is being offered at the pool on Saturdays through July 30. Joanne Wagner is coaching synchronized swimming.

- Sports Camps: Craig Shaeffer, the West Lafayette High School's Varsity coach, offered a girls basketball camp on May 31 through June 3 for grades 4 - 8. Forty-eight girls participated in the camp.
- West Lafayette Varsity Volleyball coach, Doug Klumpe, offered a summer camp for children in grades 4 – 8. Fifty-three children participated in the volleyball camp.
- Tennis lessons are being held at Happy Hollow and Cumberland schools through July 28.

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- There have been 792 registrations for the summer classes as of Friday at Morton compared to last year's total reported at the June Board meeting of 1,134, which is a decrease of 342 registrations or 31%.
- The dance recital was held on Saturday, May 21, at Elliott Hall of Music. Approximately 1,500 people attended, and enjoyed the performance.
- We participated by having a display table in the depot at the Active Living Day and Senior Day that was held May 18 at Riehle Plaza. The event was the kickoff for the Brown Bag series of summer concerts. One of our instructors gave a demonstration, along with some of her students of Dao Yin Yang Sheng Gong, an exercise similar to Tai Chi. The West Lafayette Parks and Recreation department, as well as several other agencies, received a Partner in Excellence Award for our active participation in the Coalition for Living Well after 50.
- I attended the West Lafayette Farmers' Market on May 25 and June 1 promoting the summer classes the Parks and Recreation department offers. I will be attending several times in August, as well, to promote the fall class schedule.
- We had a pleasant send-off for Catharine Early on June 3. A number of instructors and City employees were able to drop by to wish her well. Marianne Gaio has been hired as the new administrative assistant. She and her husband moved back to the area after living in California for the past fifteen years. She was employed with Mazda while living in California. She has caught on quickly in the office and has a very pleasant manner when dealing with the customers.
- The West Lafayette Parks & Recreation Foundation received a check at the end of May from the Tippecanoe Arts Federation for \$15,105.00 to replace ceilings in six rooms at Morton Community Center. The money was part of grant funds given by North Central Health Services to support arts and culture. The work should be completed over the summer.

Beautification & Stewardship – Brian reported on the following:

- Clearance pruned for new trail extension down Kent St. (State Farm property)
- Constructed & landscaped new berm @ Tapawingo Park playground area.
- Watering continues, along with other typical landscaping maintenance.
- Pruned trees @ Dubois Park, Tapawingo Park, Morton Community Center, and Happy Hollow Park.
- DeTrash the Wabash was held Saturday, May 21. There were over fifty-five volunteers participating, with seventeen of the volunteers on the West Lafayette side. There were eighty-seven bags of trash netted, along with numerous miscellaneous items.
- Mulched City Hall complex, new employee parking lot, Police Station area, and Celery Bog Nature Area.
- Additional landscaping installed at Brown St. Overlook with Rotary volunteer group.
- An Eagle Scout project along Kalberer Trailhead trail was completed 05/28/05.

Joe provided information about the construction underway on the Northwest Greenway Trail extension along Cumberland Ave. and down Kent Ave. We are currently putting stone down. The rough course of the asphalt along Kalberer Rd., between Salisbury and Soldiers Home Rd., has been put down for that trail extension. Other information was noted in the Council Report. We open bids tomorrow for the Tapawingo St. /Brown St. reconstruction, particularly the intersection, and then the rest of Brown St., which will be discussed later in the meeting. Once these trails are completed, the trail system will have approximately fourteen miles paved, with approximately another three miles of footpath.

Old Business

Tapawingo Park

Joe, referencing drawings of the Brown Street & Tapawingo Drive Intersection Improvements, reported the current plan is to have the intersection work completed before school is back in session in August. It seems as though all of the neighbors are happy with the plan. The Redevelopment Commission is meeting on July 1 to approve the contract; bids will be received tomorrow. Two climbing boulders will also be added to the playground in Tapawingo Park through the Levee Village TIF appropriation by the Redevelopment Commission.

Joe noted the Redevelopment Commission has scheduled their July 18 meeting for earlier in the day so they can attend our Park Board Luncheon.

New Business

Greater Lafayette Area Residents – Pick-up Soccer Games

Ariel de la Fuente, an area resident, presented information pertaining to a group that comes together on a regular basis to play pick-up soccer games at Cumberland Park. They recently discovered the goals they have been using had been removed. The Greater Lafayette Recreational Soccer Alliance just finished their spring season, and the goals were removed at the end of the season. Mr. de la Fuente has contacted the GLRSA and they have agreed to let them use their goals, provided the City of West Lafayette allows GLRSA to place the goals back on the fields. There were a couple of primary reasons for removing the goals, one being that we want to make sure they are tied down to avoid any possible injury, and the other was to simplify mowing and trimming. Discussion followed between Park Board members, staff, and the area residents playing soccer. It was agreed that the goals could be installed, and the group of individuals using them for their pick-up soccer games would be responsible for ensuring that they are tied down properly and for trimming around them during GLRSA's off-season.

River City Fencing

Brenda reported that River City Fencing is interested in renting a room at Morton, room 102. They would like the rental period to begin August 1. A lease agreement was included in the Park Board member's folders. John Sorensen suggested a change to the agreement, so we will not be signing the agreement today. The suggestion is to add a clause at the end, pertaining to the lease renewal, that we, or they, would have thirty days to make a change or terminate the lease, if necessary. The wording, as it currently stands, has the lease going on indefinitely. A rate of \$700.00 per month was

discussed, with a rate increase of 5% each year. The changes to the lease agreement will be made and brought back to the July meeting for approval.

Signs

Joe presented a request from the West Lafayette Tree Fund to place signs in Cumberland Park. The signs would be placed at the east side of the drive into the barn, tied into the landscaping area by the trail and the sidewalk, and on the east side of Salisbury, at the pole on the corner of the softball fence and tied into a landscaped bed that is there. The expense will be absorbed by the Tree Fund. Mike motioned to approve the signage in Cumberland Park as presented. Nancy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

West Lafayette School Board

Nancy reported the Board has decided to table the plans for the band room project to be built in the mini gym area for various reasons. She also reported that Larry Reed would be retiring at the end of this month, along with Orlan Siebenthal, a Junior High counselor. Mr. Siebenthal's retirement was effective June 6, and plans are underway to find his replacement. A management company has been hired to provide someone to handle Mr. Reed's duties for the next six months until it is decided how the maintenance and custodial work will be handled.

Joe added we would miss Larry Reed. He noted that Larry has been a friend to the Parks & Recreation department and has been great to work with, very accommodating and cooperative. It is a big loss for the school corporation and from our standpoint as well.

Wabash River

Joe reported that Riverfest is coming up. Hopefully, the weather will be good, and the event will work well. The plans are to have more dragon boat races than ever this year, which could make for a more interesting schedule. Paula noted that they would like to move the festival more towards informative, educational types of booths pertaining to the river and conservation. They are planning to continue the event, but since they have never really had good weather for the event, they would like to see how a nice day would play out. The Commission has some money that they are trying to determine the best way to disperse it to promote the river and its usage. At the next meeting, scheduled for August, they are going to talk about more specifics of how the money could best be used to promote the river.

Brian noted that it is official now; the Wabash River does have the Asian Carp species. This species becomes irritated by the outboard motors on the boats. They will jump out of the water and into your boat. It has happened several times on the Mississippi River where people have been knocked unconscious and drowned because these fish can get upwards of 25 pounds easily. There was a news segment on the river downstream of river junction, and several of the fish jumped out of the river with the news cameraman there filming.

Purchase Orders

N/A

Pay Claims

Mike motioned that claims be paid. Nancy seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:32pm.

Presiding Officer

Secretary